(b) if so, the number of incidents of security lapses which occurred at international airports in the country during the last year;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officials for the security lapses;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in order to prevent such security lapses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Fourteen incidents of security lapses, most of which are intrusion cases, occured at the international airports during the last year. The concerned agencies have been advised to take action against the erring officials.

(e) Following steps have been taken to strengthen security arrangements:

(i) Time bound deployment of CISF at all operational airports

(ii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports.

(iii) Secondary ladder point frisking at all airports.

(iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on domestic scheduled flights at random basis

(v) Regular monitoring of security arrangements by inspections and dummy checks.

Airports at Tuticorin and Salem in Tamil Nadu

3639. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of long pending demand of airport terminals at Tuticorin and Salem, important commercial towns in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken to open airport terminals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Tuticorin airport is suitable for operation of 50 seater class of aircraft in fair weather conditions and Salem airport is suitable for 100 seater class of aircraft in fair weather conditions. At present no schedule airlines are operating their flights through these airports. Therefore, Airports Authority of India has no plan to upgrade these airports.

Commission to Travel Agents

3640. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines, Air India and Alliance Air have decided to cut Commission to the travel agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that tourism industry has been hit very badly after terrorist attacks in India recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving adequate incentives to tourists and travel related industry by offering more commission to travel agents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India and Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have reduced the commission of travel agents from 9 to 7 per cent effective 01.01.2002 and 01.03.2002 respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced various promotional schemes *inter-alia* giving incentive to tourists and agents in addition to normal commission such as (i) special fares in USD are offered to foreign tourists and NRIs visiting various destinations in India; (ii) special package for promotion of